

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Virginia*

2100 Jamieson Avenue (703)299-3700
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

NEWS RELEASE

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For further information contact
Sam Dibbley 703-842-4050

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announces that Joseph Lawrence Bleich, 19, and David Alexander Post, 19, both of Reston, Virginia, pleaded guilty in the United States District Court in Alexandria to conspiracy to counterfeit securities and obligations of the United States. Bleich pleaded guilty on Thursday, February 5, 2004, and is scheduled to be sentenced before the Honorable James C. Cacheris on May 14, 2004. Post pleaded guilty yesterday and is scheduled to be sentenced on June 4, 2004 before Judge Cacheris. Each defendant faces a sentence of up to five years imprisonment.

During May 2003, while seniors at South Lakes High School in Reston, Virginia, Bleich, Post and two other students agreed to print counterfeit money to purchase marijuana at a concert in West Virginia. Bleich and Post helped purchase a scanner to print the counterfeit money. The four students used a personal computer to print approximately \$4,000 in counterfeit United States currency, drove to West Virginia where they each purchased marijuana, and upon returning to Northern Virginia, Bleich and Post each sold approximately \$200 of the counterfeit currency to other South Lake High School students. The counterfeit money was used at various restaurants in the Reston area.

Mr. McNulty stated: "Others may be tempted to use today's sophisticated technology to run their own version of the US mint. They should be advised counterfeiting is a serious crime and we

will prosecute anyone who violates the law in this manner."

The case was investigated by the United States Secret Service and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Morris Parker and Raymond Patricco.

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